

WS F&CB MENTOR MESSAGE #65

October 6, 2019

Important News - Fall 2019

Please pay careful attention to the many notes contained herein.

1. Veterans Day Program
2. Special Paperwork - Entering Walker During Flu Season
3. Transparent Bags
4. Break-away Lanyards
5. Donations of Bibles and Study Bibles
6. Wednesday Mentoring
7. Mentor Breakfast Information

Veterans Day Program. Walker staff invites all our mentors to attend the annual Veteran's Day Program on **November 1st**. Those of you who are new to Walker should understand that this is an amazing program, well organized by prisoners who have served our nation in the armed forces.

- You may attend to sit with your mentee.
- The event will be from 9:00-11:30 a.m. in the gym. Show up at 8:15 a.m. to clear security.
- **Mentors are to RSVP with Steven Howell by the 25th of October.**
- Sorry, but spouses are not invited.
- Once mentors' names are collected, Steven will send to Shauna Clark at shauna.clark@gdc.ga.gov.

Entering Prison During Flu Season. It is FLU SEASON. The corrections officer may ask you sign a form that you have not experienced flu-like symptoms or fever within 24 hours of your scheduled mentor session or been exposed to such. They must do everything then can to keep sickness from spreading inside that place. If you have experienced any symptoms of illness (not allergies) in the days leading up to entering Walker, please stay home.

Transparent Bags. According to GA Department of Corrections Policy, **all bags and carrying cases must be transparent to enter the facility.** Volunteers may use the following to bring class and religious items into the prison **when approved by staff and annotated on the entrance memo in the Security Bunker:**

- Mesh Backpacks or Bags
- Plastic Transparent Backpacks and Bags
- Clear Plastic Containers
- What you will need to do if you bring your items in a book bag or satchel is FIRST to ask your Group Leader to have it approved for you to enter with materials in an approved CLEAR bag as described above. Once the Chaplain approves it, it will be noted alongside your name in the Security Bunker. This is a statewide mandate to which we must comply.

Breakaway Lanyards. According to GA Department of Corrections Policy, **all lanyards worn into the facility must be breakaway lanyards.** Please do not wear lanyards that are not "breakaway" meaning that if grabbed they will tear or come apart rather than making you vulnerable to someone with not-so-good intentions. In the event you do not have a shirt/collar clip for your badge, you can request one at the window in the Security Bunker. We will investigate providing such items to our Group Leaders for your use. Until then, no lanyards - only clips.

Donation of Bibles and Study Bibles. Please do not request to donate individual Bibles to your mentee or to the Chaplain's Library. *The original intent of book donations was to enable mentor/mentee to study a similar curriculum. A study Bible does not fall within that criteria.* Also, we are reminded that a donated Bible or study Bible cannot belong to the mentee but the Chapel and must be returned to the chapel for others to use. Note:

1. WS F&CB has many different versions of the Bible available if an offender needs one. They also have a well-stocked Seminary library that offenders can use for study and research. Your mentee should first check with the Chaplain if he wants a Bible.
2. The Chaplain has recommended we stop asking to make donations of Bibles for as part of the mentoring program. Instead, Study Bibles may be donated to the chapel and given to the next person on the list that has signed up for a study Bible.
3. Note our recent experience:
 - a. A mentor's request to give his mentee a Study Bible was denied. That mentor then purchased a case of Reformation Study Bibles and donated the full case to the Chaplains Library to be used by any prisoner who requests one from the Chaplain.
 - b. A mentor was allowed to donate a large-print Bible under special circumstances to his mentee with a debilitating eyesight condition. The request to donate it to the mentee first was denied until the offender checked to see if one was available from the Chaplain. There was not, so we were advised, and the mentor was allowed to make this donation.

Wednesday Night Mentoring Now Possible. The Chaplain has authorized us to begin meeting on Wednesday nights. If we are going to launch this, we need two men willing to become Group Leaders for Group Seven (1st and 3rd weeks) and Group Eight (2nd and 4th weeks). Then, we need men willing to move to Wednesday nights should their mentees be free to move to Wednesdays. If you are interested in this, please notify Alan Bonderud in the coming days. I will explain the responsibilities of being a Group Leader and begin the process with Steve Howell to move forward on this.

Announcing the Next Mentor Breakfast. Our next breakfast will be held on the third Saturday of November, 11/16/2019, at Wally's in East Ridge from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. If you have any guests wishing to learn more about mentoring, please invite them as we set up a separate table to explain the program and get them started in the new and more involved State application process.

- At our last breakfast meeting we had 25 mentors present as well as one former mentee.
- We were blessed to hear from Barry Smith, who is dual hatted as Metanoia's Regional Director for Tennessee and the Prison Coordinator for MINTS Theological Seminary.
- We raised \$191 for the prison's indigent care fund otherwise known as H.O.M.E. Fund.

Together we are blessed to be involved in such an important work of mercy and service.

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Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. (Psalm 34:3)